

RE: Official Public Letter of Protest-
Stop the Auctioning of OHIO's Wayne National Forest
for Mineral Rights and ALL Class II (EIC)/Hydraulic Fracturing

Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States office
 20 M Street, Suite 950
 Washington, D.C. 20003

Fax: (202) 912-7798

Attn: BLM State Director:

I am a concerned citizen of the state of Ohio and on behalf of the Appalachian citizens of Ohio, do demand that the Bureau of Land Management stop the auction of mineral rights of all Ohio River Basin lands and to put the public safety and health of private citizens above the for-profit private interests of the Oil & Gas industry. Of the 33 parcels slated for auction on December 13th, most are located in Jackson Township in Monroe County, Ohio situated in or near the Ohio River Basin which will affect everyone and every living thing downriver in the most-impoverished counties in the southern region of our state.

Hydraulic injection fracturing processes and storage create severe and irreversible risks to drinking water, directly cause depletion of water tables, forever removes from freshwater usage the massive quantities of water contaminated with hydrochloric acids, oils and other unspecified and proprietary toxic chemicals, the process violent vertical fractures in the geologic foundations miles beneath our homes that co-mingle gases, oils, high-salinity brines and chemicals with our once-clean spring waters, air and farm and forest lands are unconscionable.

Further, the direct and irreversible damage to our millions-of-years-old geologic strata is horrifically short-sighted energy policy. While Ohio has historically suffered very few earthquakes in the southeastern region, hydraulic injection fracture and storage wells are known to cause earthquakes of increasing frequency and magnitude. It is absolutely unacceptable of the BLM to permit this type of lease on any of our Appalachian Ohio/Kentucky/West Virginia communities. Our people have already been devastated by the private for-profit Oil and Gas industry who blast away our ancient mountains, permanently obstruct and contaminate our creeks and rivers, and continue to impoverish and re-traumatize our people and our shared lands.

We are aware that during the Bush administration with Dick Cheney acting as vice president and in spite of a huge conflict of interest as CEO of Halliburton (the largest fracking interest in the world), the Energy Policy Act of 2005 was devised specifically to exempt Class II (EIC) fracking leases from the Safe Drinking Water Act! It is not acceptable to put the profit interests of industry ahead of the health needs and rights of all of us! Further, this exemption puts the entire ecological system on which we live at risk. What protections are in place for the National Wildlife Refuge in the Ohio River immediately adjacent to the Ohio River Basin parcels?

What protections do citizens of Ohio have from the EPA when disaster occurs? None! Because every Class II (EIC) well except where diesel fuels are used are completely unregulated by the EPA! This means that for the \$2/acre/year that the United States government will be receiving for the fracking leases in our state, we have no insurances in place from our government or state that our needs matter. As I understand, the 12.5% royalties from the fossil extraction from our beneath our communities is to be split up by the federal and state governments, with each government receiving just 6.25%. But, is that 6.25% worth the degradation of communities and the land/water/air forever? The private, for-profit Oil & Gas Industry is given 87.5% while forever depleting and degrading our land and our health

while never having to live in the communities they degrade, nor drink the water their industry poisons. We have to stop making it so easy for fossil fuels to be taken out of Appalachia and instead focus all our efforts, incentives and investments in carbon-free renewable energy. It is unacceptable and dangerous to incentivize carbon fossil fuel/gas/oil/coal industries to continue to ruin the spectacular Appalachian region and harm those of us who live here and call this land *home*.

I urge you to STOP the mineral rights lease auction of any BLM lands in our state of Ohio! Ohio and the federal government must make careful decisions concerning our clean drinking water, our streams and rivers and wildlife, because it is all we have here. The detrimental impacts to this already impoverished region are serious and of great consequence.

Please do not facilitate or allow any Class II (EIC) oil/gas/fracking/storage wells to further degrade our communities. Please stop all BLM lease auction plans in Appalachian Ohio.

I urge you, Karen, please stop this sale.

Most sincerely,

Jennifer Wenker, Ohio citizen and 8th-generation Appalachian Ohio family

